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DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1959.

With the Annual Reports of (a) the Senior Public Health Inspector
and (b) the Engineer & Surveyor attached.

Council Offices,
Pulham Market,
Diss, Norfolk.
(May, 1960).

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF DEPWADE.

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1959.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for
the year 1959.

LOCAL HEALTH (1959)

The estimated population of Depwade District declined from 17,970 in 1958 to 17,920 in 1959. The corrected birth rate (14.8) was lower than that of England and Wales (16.5) while the corrected death rate (9.8) compared favourably with the corresponding figure for England and Wales (11.6). The infantile mortality rate was 21.6 compared with 22.0 (a new low record) for England and Wales as a whole.

For the first time on record no cases of whooping cough were notified, but a troublesome outbreak of dysentery occurred in the autumn; otherwise communicable diseases presented no unusual features.

TETANUS IMMUNISATION.

The drama of tetanus deaths provides good material for coroners' comments and press headlines. Public concern over the accident of tetanus (for accident it is) is thoroughly justified, but at the same time there is no reason why the statistical position of deaths from this

disease, in relation to other "headline" deaths, should not be put in its proper place. Here is a comparative list of deaths in England and Wales in 1957; the selected causes of deaths are those of particular public concern at the present time;

Motor Vehicle Accidents	4,898	Tuberculosis of the Lung	4,249
All other accidents	11,000	Poliomyelitis	226
Cancer of the Lung	19,028	Tetanus	46

The death rate is 50% which means that there are less than 100 cases per annum in England and Wales.

The risk of contracting tetanus in Norfolk is rather higher than in many other parts of England; the actual risk in Norfolk (Administrative County) is about 1 in 65,000; there were 7 cases and 4 deaths in 1958 and 6 cases and 2 deaths in 1959.

Needless to say many cases of tetanus are prevented by the injection of "ready-made" protectors (antibodies) into injured persons shortly after an accident. Unfortunately horse-serum is a necessary component of this injection and may cause severe reactions in those allergic to serum; moreover a protection of this sort lasts for a few weeks only. Far better to have one's own "tailor-made" protection. This can be obtained by a course of injections (three) which gives protection for years and, as serum is not involved, the risk of unpleasant reaction is negligible.

Anxiety about tetanus is hardly comparable with anxiety about a communicable disease like poliomyelitis. The incidence of tetanus is relatively low and, unlike many other dangerous infections, it cannot appear in epidemic form; moreover, certain injuries are themselves a danger warning permitting the timely use of antitoxin in preventing the disease becoming established.

During 1959 there was a general broadening of tetanus immunisation schemes in Area 5 to cover school children and those exposed to special risk. At school booster doses are now given to fortify the tetanus protection given in infancy and primary immunisations offered when other immunisations are being carried out.

POLIOMYELITIS

The incidence of poliomyelitis in England and Wales from 1955 to 1959 is as follows:

Year	Notifications		Deaths
	Paralytic	Non-paralytic	
1955	3,711	2,617	241
1956	1,715	1,482	114
1957	3,175	1,666	226
1958	1,417	575	129
1959	733	289	91

In Norfolk the incidence for the same period is as follows:

Year	Notifications		Deaths
	Paralytic	Non-paralytic	
1955	29	28	5
1956	8	2	1
1957	28	11	3
1958	5	1	-
1959	2	2	-

The notifications of poliomyelitis in 1959 were the lowest recorded during the past 13 years in England and Wales.

Poliomyelitis vaccination was instituted in 1956.

The school and pre-school population in Area 5 is approximately 9,000. The number of children vaccinated in this group, since the introduction of the vaccination campaign up to December 1959, was 7,550. Of these, 5,954 have had the full course (three injections) and 1,596 have had the initial two injections. The population of the age group 16 to 25 in Area 5 is approximately 6,000. In this group 620 have had the full course of injections and 1,296 have had two injections. The extension of the vaccination scheme to young adults was made in September 1958; the figures shown cover the period from that date to December 1959.

DYSENTERY.

During the past six years the incidence of dysentery of the "Sonne" type has shown considerable increase; the number of notifications for England and Wales has fluctuated between 30,000 and 50,000 a year. Sonne dysentery is a winter disease probably for the reason that low temperature and high humidity favour the survival of the bacillus outside the body.

The incidence of the infection falls most heavily on children under 15 years of age and this fact gives rise to much difficulty in control. It is not easy to persuade children to keep their hands clean and away from their mouths; as personal contact is the chief means of the spread of infection and as only a small dose of the bacillus is necessary to start the illness it is not difficult to understand how whole families become rapidly infected. Moreover, mild undetected cases may harbour the bacillus for weeks after recovery.

The detection of symptomless excretors (particularly food handlers) causes much inconvenience to the public and considerable field and laboratory work; but it has to be done to check the spread of infection.

The greatest weapon in the avoidance of spread is scrupulous personal hygiene. This means cleanliness of body and clothing and, above all, thorough washing of the hands after each visit to the toilet. Written advice on precautions to be taken are issued to families in which cases occur; food handlers who are suspected or proved carriers are excluded from work.

It is obvious from the fore-going that good environmental hygiene - particularly where schools are concerned - is all important; we must practice what we preach to school children if they are not to view their school sanitation with a questioning (or fearful) eye.

Once Sonne dysentery becomes established in an urban community it is very difficult to eradicate. In the early part of the year an outbreak at a private school in Harleston was quickly controlled because of early notification and close medical supervision. On the other hand, an outbreak at Long Stratton (a comparatively larger community) in the latter part of the year dragged on for some months as the disease was fairly well established before control could be instituted.

Mental Health Act, 1959.

"Disorders of the mind are illnesses which need medical treatment. Great progress has been made during the present century in developing methods of treatment for many forms of mental disorder. Even when the disorder cannot be completely cured, it is often possible for the patient to live a happy and useful life in spite of some continuing mental weakness. This is now recognised by many of the general public as well as by those who are directly concerned with the care of patients and most people are coming to regard mental illness and disability in much the same way as physical illness and disability". So reads the opening paragraph of the main conclusions of the Royal Commission on the Law Relating to Mental Illness and Mental Deficiency in a Report published in 1957; it is this acceptance of a new attitude towards mental disorders which has found expression in the Mental Health Act, 1959. This Act repeals the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890 to 1930, and the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913 to 1938, and makes fresh provision for the treatment and care of mentally disordered persons, their property and affairs.

In future all hospitals for mentally ill patients will be known as "psychiatric hospitals"; all forms of mental ill-health will be termed "mental disorder" and, under the Act, all terms such as "mental defective", "idiot", "imbecile", "feeble-minded", and "moral defective" will be abolished.

Under the 1959 Act, four main categories of mentally disordered patients are recognised i.e. those suffering from "Mental illness", "severe subnormality", "subnormality", and "psychopathic disorder".

Long hospitalisation is now out of fashion in mental medicine and there is a shift of emphasis from hospital to community care. One of the most important provisions of the new Act is to make possible the admission and discharge of many cases of mental disorder without constraint and without the complications of legal procedure.

Food Hygiene.

Much confusion may be caused by the introduction of a new

picture into the home. The effort to hang it correctly may end in the major exercise of (say) transforming the dining-room into a sitting room and vice versa. Something similar happens when attempts are made to introduce improved hygiene into rural food premises (particularly licensed premises); the fixing of a simple thing like a wash hand basin may end up with major alterations to the entire building. This is all to the good but tends to slow up the improvements we are anxious to see completed.

Even when environmental hygiene reaches the desired standard we are still left with the greater problem of personal hygiene. Indeed, good environmental hygiene may produce a false sense of security leading to failure in personal care. Mr. Morley Parry, the Food Hygiene Advisory Officer, Ministry of Health, has said that in America the housewife is the true guardian of the family health; she refuses to accept food from premises which are not, to the naked eye, models of hygienic display. The management, fully alive to the facts, puts cleanliness in the front rank of their advertising and selling methods. Highly polished vans manned by crews clothed from head to foot in angelic whiteness deliver the goods to the retailer; goods so attractively packaged that the housewife feels impelled to follow them into the shop and be the first to buy. Nevertheless, cases of food poisoning continue to occur because, no doubt, the habit of personal hygiene is so difficult to acquire.

Authority is bound by limitations in securing the freedom of the community from communicable diseases; after that it's up to the individual. In America, at any rate, the housewife refuses to be handed a doctor's bill (very expensive) with the grocer's invoice and it is significant that the slogan which most appeals to her is "Protect Yourself, Yourself". We still have a long way to go.

Strontium-90.

In Continuation of notes on radioactive fall-out submitted to your Council last year further recent information on Strontium-90 is submitted as follows:-

1. The Atomic Energy Authority reports that human bone was more contaminated with strontium-90 in (early) 1959 than in previous years. But the amount has not by any means reached a level where "immediate consideration is required" (i.e. a level beyond one-hundredth of that corresponding to the maximum permissible occupational level).
2. In 1958 the average man derived rather more than half his strontium-90 from milk and less from other and vegetable sources. The Agricultural Research Council continues to watch the contamination of our diet by Strontium-90.
3. "Current data indicate that fall-out has declined notably since mid-1959, so that contamination of fresh milk should be declining appreciably."
4. "In general the situation seems more satisfactory than was at one time expected. Stratospheric debris, it appears, deposits with a half-time of some months to a year or more, the period depending on the latitude and height at which the material is released, rather than 5-10 years as was once thought probable."

(Information and quotations are from the British Medical Journal, 9.4.60)

II. STAFF

Mr. F.C. Weeks, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E., continued duty as Public Health Inspector to your Council throughout the year. Mr. H. Brooks, M.A.P.S.I., continued to occupy the post of Additional Public Health Inspector until 26th November when he resigned and his post remained vacant during the remainder of the year.

III. VITAL STATISTICS

(a) Population

The Registrar General estimates the population of Depwade Rural District, in 1959, at 17,920 compared with 17,970 in 1958.

(b) Births

There were 231 live births recorded during the year: 122 boys and 109 girls. The crude birth rate was 12.9 per per 1000 of the resident population compared with 14.5 in 1958.

(c) Deaths

The number of recorded deaths was 223 compared with 248 in 1958; the crude death rate was, therefore, 12.4 compared with 13.8 in 1958. The greatest number of deaths occurred in the age group 70-80 (82 deaths); there were 15 deaths in the age group 90-100 and there were 20 deaths of persons under 51 years of age.

(d) Comparability Factor

The comparability factor makes an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that of England and Wales as a whole. Allowing for this factor the adjusted birth rate for Depwade District thus becomes 14.8 compared with 16.5 for England and Wales and the death rate 9.8 compared with 11.6 for England and Wales.

(e) Infant Mortality

Year after year the infant death-rate in England and Wales reaches a new low record. In 1959 the infant mortality rate was 22.0. If this figure is to be reduced to the lowest possible level the exact time factor of death during the first 52 weeks of life becomes of importance; moreover, the causes of stillbirths also require study. For this reason the Ministry of Health now requires additional returns relating to infant deaths: deaths of infants during the first four weeks (Neo-natal mortality); deaths of infants under one week (early neo-natal mortality); still births plus deaths under one week (perinatal mortality).

The infant mortality rate for Depwade (deaths of infants under one year per 1000 live births) was 21.6; that is to say, there were five infant deaths. Four of these deaths occurred within a few hours or a few days of birth and one occurred one month after birth. All these deaths were due to congenital conditions incompatible with life.

IV COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

(a) One hundred and ninety-eight cases of communicable diseases were notified by general practitioners during 1959. One hundred and thirty-two of these notifications were measles, twenty-six pneumonia, seventeen dysentery and sixteen scarlet fever; there were three notifications of infective jaundice and two of food poisoning. There were no notifications of poliomyelitis; it was the first year on record without notified cases of whooping cough.

(b) Diphtheria

The district remained free from this disease and primary immunisation of infants by inoculation continued at a satisfactory level during 1959. Because of the urgency of the poliomyelitis campaign, diphtheria booster doses for school children were reduced below the normal level but this is being rectified in 1960.

(c) Poliomyelitis

No cases were notified and there have been no recorded cases since 1957 when there was one case.

3,490 persons were given primary immunisation and 5,502 persons received booster doses during 1959 in Area 5.

Statistical details of poliomyelitis vaccinations from 1956 to 1959 are shown in Table 21 of the appendix to this Report.

(d) Dysentery

Ten cases were notified from St. John's School, Harleston, in early June and seven cases were notified towards the end of the year from the areas of Long Stratton and Bunwell where the disease appeared in epidemic form and persisted into 1960. The usual precautions were taken i.e. searches for carriers, restrictions on contacts, examination of food-handlers where indicated and warnings with regard to environmental and personal hygiene. The outbreak ran concurrently with a high county and national incidence.

(e) Scarlet Fever

Sixteen cases were notified. This disease continues to appear in its present-day mild form, i.e. a fairly short illness characterised by a sore throat and rash and generally without complications.

TETANUS

As reported in the introduction to the Report, action was taken in 1959 to widen the immunisation service (school children in particular) by the inclusion of primary tetanus immunisation and booster doses for children already immunised in infancy. Table 23 in the appendix to this Report shows a record of work under this heading.

TUBERCULOSIS

In England and Wales the dramatic fall in the number of annual deaths from tuberculosis continues. Notifications also continue to decline steadily. In 1948 the death rate, per 100,000 living, of males in the 15-30 age group was 52. That figure has now been reduced to 2. For females the death rate was 78 and this figure, too, has been reduced to 2. This

statistical pattern is found in all the younger age groups. Taking the ten year period 1948 to 1958 the fall in notifications is 43 per cent.

At the present time the accepted method of control within the community is case finding by mass radiography and B.C.G. vaccination of school-leavers; this procedure is followed in your District. For obvious reasons the main reservoirs of infection are found today in the older age groups.

The position regarding tuberculosis (all forms) in Depwade District may be illustrated by the following table:

	Notifications	Deaths
1955	8	1
1956	6	-
1957	10	1
1958	4	4
1959	4	1

CANCER

The number of cancer deaths in Depwade District was 32 compared with 43 in 1958; that is to say, the cancer deaths were approximately 14% of total deaths - no higher than the average. Of the total cancer deaths, four (all males) were caused by cancer of the lung. The yearly average of lung cancer deaths in the district is five; there were ten lung cancer deaths in 1958. The national deaths from lung cancer continue to rise.

V. HOUSING

The main interest of the year was the decision by your Council, subject to certain conditions, to carry out improvements to certain pre-war Council houses involving 318 dwellings. The basic improvement intended is the provision of bathrooms and hot water systems; such improvements would also be considered for those houses coming within independently planned sewage schemes.

It is regrettable that your Council has felt obliged in the past to take no further action in connection with schemes for the provision of grouped homes for old people. I am confident, however, that should a serious need arise for this type of accommodation that some way out of the difficulties will be found.

It may well be that this social service may prove in the future to be the most important contribution to the happiness and sense of security of the elderly in your district.

VI. WATER SUPPLIES

The water supply scheme for Depwade District is now comprehensive. Bacteriological and chemical tests taken throughout the year ensured the distribution of a perfectly safe water supply.

VII SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES

The Council's policy throughout the year was concerned with the provision of sewage disposal plants for small centres of population consisting for the most part of Council Estate property. Thus, housing sites at Burston and Wacton were provided with modern sanitation; a sewerage scheme at Alburgh was approved by the Ministry; a scheme for Earsham was prepared for Ministry approval; outline schemes for Pulham Market, Pulham St. Mary and Brockdish were under consideration.

VIII CONCLUSION

It has been said that we are presented with three health services rather than one, all acting independently, i.e. the general practitioner service, the Regional Hospital Boards and the Local Authority Services. However this may be I should like to record here my acknowledgement and appreciation of the co-operation in local authority work of the general practitioners in Area 5 particularly in the rapidly expanding work of immunisation.

Finally, I wish to thank the Chairman, the Clerk of the Council, and members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support and encouragement and for the efficient help given me by the Public Health Inspectors and Council staff, and by the Clerical staff at the Health Office, Norwich.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W.E. Holmes

Local Health Office,
Aspland Road,
Norwich.

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT

Table 1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	79,740
Estimated Resident Population	17,920
Rateable Value	£102,853
Sum produced by a Penny Rate	£393

Table 2. LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	114	104	218
Illegitimate	8	5	13
Totals	122	109	231

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated

Resident Population = 12.9

Table 3. STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	6	4	10
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	6	4	10

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births: 41.5

Table 4. TOTAL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Live	122	109	231
Still	6	4	10
Totals	128	113	241

Table 5. INFANT DEATHS(a) Infant Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	3	2	5

Infant Mortality Rates per 1,000 live births:

Total = 21.6.
 Legitimate = 22.9 (per 1,000 legitimate births)
 Illegitimate = Nil (per 1,000 illegitimate births)

(b) Neo Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants during first four weeks)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neo Natal Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) = 17.3

(c) Early Neo-natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neo-natal Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) = 17.3

(d) Perinatal Mortality (Still births and deaths under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	8	6	14
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) = 58.0

Table 6. ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

8 Males, 5 Females, 13 Total, = 5.6% of Total Live Births

Table 7. MATERNAL DEATHS (including abortion)

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births

= Nil

Table 8. DEATHS (All ages)

Males	Females	Total
115	108	223

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated
Resident Population = 12.4

Table 9. CAUSE OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR -

Cause	Males	Females	Total
Congenital Malformations	3	-	3
Intracranial Haemorrhage		1	1
Prematurity		1	1
Totals	3	2	5

Table 10. NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATHS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR
(According to Age Groups)

	Males	Females	Total
Under 1 year	3	2	5
1 and under 5	-	-	-
5 " " 10	1	1	2
10 " " 20	1	1	2
20 " " 30	1	1	2
30 " " 40	2	-	2
40 " " 50	4	3	7
50 " " 60	12	5	17
60 " " 70	12	10	22
70 " " 80	40	42	82
80 " " 90	30	37	67
90 " " 100	9	6	15
100 and over	-	-	-
Totals	125	98	223

Table 11.

CAUSE OF TOTAL DEATHS (Registrar - General)

Cause	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, other.	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infection.	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	3	2	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	4	-	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	-	-
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	11	10	21
15. Leukemia, Aleukemia.	2	-	2
16. Diabetes.	1	-	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	13	14	27
18. Coronary disease, angina.	18	11	29
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-	1
20. Other heart diseases.	13	22	35
21. Other circulatory diseases.	9	12	21
22. Influenza.	2	3	5
23. Pneumonia.	13	15	28
24. Bronchitis.	2	2	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	2	2	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion.	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.	3	-	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	5	6	11
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	3	-	3
34. All other accidents.	3	4	7
35. Suicide.	4	1	5
36. Homicide and operations of War.	-	-	-
Totals	115	108	223

Table 12. SUMMARY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
<u>Live Births (per 1,000 pop)</u>	(295)	(260)	(273)	(263)	(263)	(229)	(260)	(231)
Depwade R.D.	16.3	14.4	15.0	14.4	14.6	12.7	14.5	12.9
Area 5	15.6	14.3	13.4	14.3	14.2	13.3	14.9	13.7
England and Wales (Provisional)	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.7	16.1	16.4	16.5
<u>Still Births (per 1,000 total births)</u>	(12)	(5)	(10)	(8)	(5)	(4)	(2)	(10)
Depwade R.D.	39.0	18.8	35.3	29.5	18.6	17.2	7.6	41.5
Area 5	28.0	17.1	26.0	20.8	23.7	22.0	9.9	19.9
England and Wales (Provisional)	22.6	22.4	24.0	23.1	23.0	22.4	21.6	20.7
<u>Crude Deaths (per 1,000 pop)</u>	(231)	(200)	(235)	(245)	(226)	(206)	(248)	(223)
Depwade R.D.	12.8	11.0	12.9	13.4	12.5	11.4	13.8	12.4
Area 5	12.6	10.9	11.6	11.8	11.4	11.1	12.1	12.4
England and Wales (Provisional)	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7	11.7	11.5	11.7	11.6
<u>Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)</u>	(13)	(8)	(2)	(7)	(8)	(3)	(2)	(5)
Depwade R.D.	44.0	30.7	7.3	25.2	30.4	13.1	7.7	21.6
Area 5	28.8	34.8	7.1	19.0	20.8	15.0	8.3	25.4
England and Wales (Provisional)	27.0	26.8	25.5	24.9	23.8	23.0	22.5	22.0

NOTE: 1. Figures in brackets are the actual numbers for Depwade R.D.
2. Area 5 comprises Depwade & Loddon R.Ds. and Diss & Wymondham U.Ds.

Table 13. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)
ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS) - DEPWADE R.D.

	Under 1	1 - 4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	Over 25	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	3	12	1	-	16
Measles	-	37	87	4	4	132
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	2	1	22	26
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	1	2	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1	1
Dysentery (Sonne)	-	1	7	3	6	17
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	1	1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	1	-	1
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	41	108	12	36	198

Table 14. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)

	Quarters				Total
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	
Scarlet Fever	2	10	3	1	16
Measles	4	86	42	-	132
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	21	1	1	3	26
Infective Jaundice	1	-	-	2	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1	1
Dysentery (Sonne)	-	10	-	7	17
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	-	1
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	28	107	47	16	198

Table 15. INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING LAST FIVE YEARS - Depwade R.D.

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Scarlet Fever	4	16	3	4	16
Measles	29	158	255	59	132
Whooping Cough	91	53	64	16	-
Pneumonia	13	13	11	15	26
Infective Jaundice	10	-	-	-	3
Erysipelas	2	5	-	1	1
Dysentery (Sonne)	9	-	6	7	17
Food Poisoning	5	-	4	12	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	1	1	1
Weils Disease	1	1	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	1	-	-
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	2	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	2	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis (post infectious)	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	167	249	347	115	198

Table 16. TUBERCULOSIS (DETAILS OF NEW CASES DURING 1959) - Depwade R.D.

Age Period	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
0- 4	-	-	-	-
5-14	1	-	1	-
15-22	-	-	-	-
23-34	-	-	-	-
35-44	-	-	-	-
45-54	1	-	-	-
55-64	-	1	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	1	1	-

Table 17. TUBERCULOSIS (NUMBER OF CASES ON T.B. REGISTER AS AT 31.12.59)
Depwade R.D.

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	41	34	75
Non-Pulmonary	6	7	13
Total	47	41	88

Table 18. DETAILS OF NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS FOR LAST FIVE YEARS
Depwade R.D.

		1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Pulmonary	Male	4	3	3	-	2
	Female	3	2	4	1	1
Non-Pulmonary	Male	1	1	1	1	1
	Female	-	-	2	2	-
Depwade R.D. Total		8	6	10	4	4
Area 5. Total		13	17	18	8	7

Table 19. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following is the number of primary immunisations and booster injections given during the last seven years in respect of Area 5.

	Primary Injections			Booster Injections		Total
	Under 1	Total Under 5	Age 5-14	Under 5	Age 5-14	
1959	302	466	23	20	74	583
1958	283	401	60	28	416	905
1957	347	447	76	54	773	1,350
1956	390	523	139	62	886	1,610
1955	283	463	86	45	251	845
1954	237	486	171	26	983	1,666
1953	-	493	392	36	1,855	2,776

Table 20. VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Vaccination of children (under five years of age) during the years 1955 to 1959 resident in the District and Area 5, are shown in the following table.

	Depwade R.D.					Area 5				
	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Number of live births registered.	263	263	229	260	231	577	576	533	599	551
Number of vaccinations recorded (0-4 years)	185	213	161	205	110	361	500	410	445	472
Percentage vaccinated.	70	81	70	79	48	62	87	77	74	86

Table 21. VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

The following is the number of primary immunisations and booster injections given in Area 5 since the introduction of this scheme in 1956.

	Primary			Booster			Totals
	Age 0-4	Age 5-14	Adults	Age 0-4	Age 5-14	Adults	
1959	593	677	2,220	1377	3,261	864	9,492
1958	1,648	3,159	154	32	1,284	2	6,279
1957	197	1,115	-	-	-	-	1,312
1956	40	121	-	-	-	-	161

Table 22. IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

The following is the number of whooping-cough primary immunisations notified in Area 5. Although whooping cough was included in the Council's immunisation scheme in May 1953, notification was on a voluntary basis until September 1957 when the triple vaccine (diphtheria/whooping-cough/tetanus) was officially approved. A very high percentage of the immunisations recorded 1954 to 1957 were given by means of the combined antigen diphtheria/whooping-cough.

Year	Under 1	Age 1-4	Age 5-14	Totals
1959	318	227	16	561
1958	265	106	8	379
1957	329	89	7	425
1956	329	117	-	446
1955	237	151	7	395
1954	246	255	16	517

Table 23. IMMUNISATION AGAINST TETANUS

The following is the number of tetanus immunisations notified in Area 5 during the last two years. Immunisation against this disease was included in the Council's immunisation scheme in September, 1957.

Year	Primary				Booster		
	Age Under 1	Age 1-4	Age 5-14	Age 15+	Age 1-4	Age 5-14	Age 15+
1959	307	258	218	144	11	27	39
1958	125	50	12	7	1	1	4

Table 24. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER - Depwade R.D.

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Number of deaths.	41	32	27	36	33	37	22	43	32
Percentage of total deaths.	16.0	13.8	13.5	15.3	13.4	16.4	10.6	17.3	14.3

Table 25. DEATHS DUE TO CANCER - Area 5

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Number of deaths.	86	82	74	87	73	65	55	81	102
Percentage of total deaths.	15.3	16.3	16.9	18.5	15.2	14.0	12.4	16.6	20.5

Table 26. CANCER DEATHS DURING LAST SEVEN YEARS - Depwade R.D.

Year	Male			Female		
	Total Deaths	Total Cancer Deaths	Cancer of Lung	Total Deaths	Total Cancer Deaths	Cancer of Lung
1953	107	17	5	93	10	-
1954	119	16	4	116	20	-
1955	133	21	3	112	13	1
1956	115	21	6	111	16	-
1957	109	14	4	97	8	-
1958	130	27	9	118	16	1
1959	115	18	4	118	14	-
Totals	828	134	35	765	97	2

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1959.

Mr.Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1959, and the sanitary circumstances in the District at the end of that year.

The report is on similar lines to that of last year, and in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, as set out in Circular 1/60.

Staff.

Mr.H.Brooks, who had been Additional Public Health Inspector to the Council since his appointment in July,1957, left at the end of November to take up an appointment as sole Public Health Inspector to the East Retford Borough Council (Notts). He had given this Council very satisfactory service, and I was sorry that he left. Mr.D.E.Coldham, Public Health Inspector to the Diss U.D.C., was appointed to fill the vacancy in December but did not commence duties until shortly after the end of the year. Mr.H.Johnson, general clerk, and Miss F.M.Riches, shorthand-typist/clerk, continued to give good service in the office.

New Legislation.

The main new legislation affecting the work of the Department, which came into force during the year, was as follows:-

- (a) House Purchase & Housing Act,1959., the principle provision of which was the new type of grants - 'standard grants' - which local authorities could make towards the cost of installing standard amenities in dwellings considered capable of providing reasonable accommodation for at least 15-years.
- (b) Factories Act,1959., which made further provisions as to the health, safety and welfare of factory employees, and provided for the transfer of local authorities' duties as to 'means of escape in case of fire' to fire authorities, but the date of such transfer has not been fixed.
- (c) Town & Country Planning Act,1959., one main provision of which affected us administratively only.

A number of Circulars and Regulations were also issued, mainly in connection with slaughterhouses and food, which made minor amendments to previous legislation; the most important of these was the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations,1959, which, inter alia, provided for the registration of milk distributors to apply only in the area from which distribution takes place (and not in each area in which milk is distributed, as previously).

General.

During the year your inspectors carried out a total of 4,983 visits and inspections (to which should be added 38 slaughterhouse visits by a private firm of Veterinary Surgeons for meat inspection), and the following summary of these visits indicates the proportion of time and duties being demanded by the various aspects of our work:-

	<u>No.of visits or inspections.</u>	<u>Percentage of total.</u>
Slaughterhouses for meat inspection and other purposes 	1,263 ...	25
Housing Inspections and re-visits (including Discretionary and Standard Grants). 	946 ...	19.0
Public Health matters - nuisances, infectious diseases, water supplies etc.	376 ...	7.5

	<u>No. of visits or inspections.</u>	<u>Percentage of total.</u>
Scavenging matters - including Harleston public conveniences.	480	9.5
Food premises. 	164	3.5
Other matters - factories, rodent control, petroleum storage control, etc. and miscellaneous visits...	416	8.0
Building Byelaws & Town Planning Control.	1,376	27.5

The total number of visits is up by about 120 over the previous year, and the pattern of demand by the various branches of the duties remains substantially the same. It will be observed that meat inspection and building etc. control account for over half the number of visits made, and with housing, general public health work and scavenging taking up another 36% of the total, only just over 10% of our time outside the office is left for the many miscellaneous types of visits and routine inspections of food shops, etc.

In this connection, I should like to add that as each year comes under review, one finds that more and more time is having to be spent in the office - partly on the ever increasing amount of paper work, and partly on interviewing members of the public making enquiries on various matters. Whilst one deplores the loss of time available to carry out essential public health duties, it is, at the same time gratifying that members of the public do make these enquiries more to-day than in the past - this applies particularly in respect of the purchase of dwellings and the question of applying for grants for improvements thereto. I estimate that about half my time is spent in the office, and about one third of the additional inspector's

HOUSING.

(a) General.

At 31st March, 1959 the Rate Books showed that the number of separate units of dwelling accommodation in the district was 6,216 - a reduction of 55 from the same time the previous year. The Registrar General's estimated population figure for the district for mid 1959 was 17,920 (50 less than 1958), which gives an average occupation figure of 2.883 persons per house - a slight rise on the figure for 1958.

By reference to the number of new dwellings erected and those demolished (see below) it may appear that a number of dwellings have been 'lost' on the rate books. This is accounted for by the number of double dwellers which are continually being converted into one, and the number of disused converted dwellings previously used by the Council on ex-Air Ministry sites which were removed from the rate books during the period under review.

45 new dwellings were erected by private enterprise; none by the Council.

(b) Unfit dwellings - action under Housing Acts.

Continuing with the slum clearance programme on the lines of the last few years, 74 dwellings were represented to the Public Health Committee as unfit and beyond repair at reasonable cost. Following inspection by the Housing Sub-Committee and subsequent consideration by the Committee and Council, action taken thereon was as follows:-

(a) Demolition orders made.....	24
(b) Undertakings to carry out repairs accepted.....	2
(c) Undertakings not to relet vacant dwellings accepted..	4
(d) Closing orders made.....	8
(e) No action at present, and/or reconsider at a later stage of slum clearance programme.....	24
(f) Carried forward for action in 1960.....	11

In one case the owner voluntarily demolished the dwelling without action having been taken by the Council.

Nine demolition orders were also made in respect of those cases brought forward from the previous year. In one of the cases of undertakings to repair in (b), the necessary work was carried out during the year and the undertaking cancelled. Two undertakings accepted previously were also cancelled following the execution of repair work to render dwellings fit for habitation.

During the year 29 dwellings were demolished (8 by the Council in default of demolition orders) and the position at the end of the year in respect of unfit dwellings subject to orders etc. still standing was as follows:-

	<u>Demolition Orders.</u>	<u>Closing Orders.</u>	<u>Undertakings.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
.. Number of dwellings occupied..	80 (68)	9 (3)	12 (14)	101 (85)
Number of dwellings vacant....	49 (60)	14 (13)	93 (92)	156 (165)
	<u>129 (128)</u>	<u>23 (16)</u>	<u>105 (106)</u>	<u>257 (150)</u>

Considering the number of unfit dwellings dealt with in the year, it is gratifying to note that the number of these dwellings rose only by 7 during the year, but the fact that the number still occupied rose by 16 is to be deplored; it is hoped that special consideration will be given to rehousing some of these cases when the first bungalows of the Council's new building programme are available for letting.

One remaining case of a house subject to demolition order being occupied under licence (Sec.34 of the Housing Act,1957) continued to be so at the end of the year. The licence, at the express direction of the Ministry, expires in August,1960.

It is regrettable that formal action by the Council under the Housing Acts continues to emphasize 'demolition' rather than 'repair & reconstruction' but with the gap between rents and building costs continuing to widen and the question of 'reasonable cost' confronting us, there is no apparent alternative. For this reason action to have unfit dwellings repaired has been confined to informal action in respect of essential work only when complaints are received - and these are few - and it is fortunate that generally landlords are co-operative. During the year 11 dwellings were repaired as a result of such action. In one case, however, a statutory notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act,1957 failed to induce the owner to carry out repairs, and the work was subsequently carried out by the Council in default. In only one other case was it necessary to serve an abatement notice for repairs under Sec.93. of the Public Health Act, 1936, following which most of the repairs required were carried out.

Only one application for Certificate of Disrepair under the Rent Act,1957 was received; following an inspection the notice of intention to issue the certificate was served on the owner, as a result of which the necessary repairs were carried out.

(c) Improvement Grants.

With the introduction of the new type of grant - 'standard grants' - about mid-year, it is now necessary to sub-divide this part of the report under its respective headings:-

(i) Discretionary Grants. Another 47 of these grants to the value of £10,326 were approved during the year, with an average of £220 per grant as compared with £207 in 1958 and £197 in 1957 (Note: In July the Council increased the amount of grant to 50% of approved cost, as against the previously agreed proportion of 40%). The total number of these grants approved by the Council up to the end of 1959 was 342 to the total value of £70,282.

Two of the grants approved during the year were subsequently not taken up by the applicants.

Those approved during 1959 applied to the various types of dwellings as follows:-

Private dwellings occupied by owner.....	21
Farm-houses.....	8
Tied agricultural workers' dwellings.....	8
Privately rented dwellings.....	10

All 47 grants were made in respect of improvements to existing dwellings, there were no conversions.

During 1959 the amounts outstanding (plus interest) were repaid to the Council in five cases, grant conditions having been broken.

(ii) Standard Grants. 31 applications for these grants were approved by the Council between July and December (one of which was subsequently withdrawn). As members are no doubt aware, this type of grant covers only the installation of five standard amenities - bath, wash-basin, W.C., hot-water system and food store - or such of these as do not already exist in the dwelling. The 30 grants approved covered the following total amenities to be provided:-

Baths.....	22	Wash-basins.....	24	W.Cs.....	27
Hot-water systems.....	28	Food stores.....	14		

22 of the grants applied to dwellings occupied by the owner.

Members will also know that payment of these grants is not made until after the work has been satisfactorily completed, and the builders' account for the work is available for checking. For this reason it means somewhat more delay in payment than in the case of discretionary grants, and by the end of the year only 3 payments had been made - totalling £200.17.4d - average grant £66.19s. A more satisfactory assessment of the average cost per grant will be available next year.

(d) Overcrowding.

Two new cases of statutory overcrowding and one on the 'bedroom standard' came to our notice during the year. Five cases (including three statutory) were abated, (three of which were allocated Council dwellings, one family left the district and in the other case the family was rehoused by the owner). This left the position of cases still on the register at the end of the year as follows:-

Number of cases of statutory overcrowding.....	5
Number of cases where overcrowding exists on the 'bedroom standard' only.....	5

This total of ten outstanding cases is a reduction of two on the figure at the end of 1958. Of these ten, three are concerned with Council dwellings and two are unfit dwellings subject to demolition orders. No guarantee can be given that this covers every case of overcrowding in the District, but it is reasonable to assume that the problem is not a serious one.

(e) Dirty and Verminous Dwellings.

Once again, I am pleased to be able to report that this aspect of housing does not present a large number of serious problems in the District. Two new cases of elderly persons living in insanitary conditions arose during 1959, one in a Council bungalow and the other a single man living in a timber structure. In the former case informal action brought about some improvement and the case was still under observation at the end of the year. In the other case, which was not encountered until December, the man expressed willingness to enter a County Home, but the Welfare Department had not been able to accommodate him by the year's end.

No formal action was considered necessary for the compulsory removal of aged or infirm persons in insanitary conditions under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948 (as amended).

Three other cases of dirty and verminous dwellings were dealt with informally after vacation by previous tenants (two of which were Council dwellings), and three disinfestations for fleas carried out at the request of private occupiers in otherwise clean dwellings.

(f) Moveable Dwellings.

There were 18 licensed moveable dwellings in the district at the end of the year - 3 less than at the end of the year before. With one exception these are modern car-trailer caravans on individual sites and periodical inspections thereof

has shown that they are maintained in a satisfactory manner. They are mainly occupied by young married couples or single men, and no case of overcrowding has come to our notice. I am pleased to report that the case of overcrowding previously reported in a caravan was abated during 1959 - the family having found satisfactory permanent housing accommodation nearby. The following figures indicate the changes that took place during the year:-

Number of moveable dwellings licenced at 31.12.58.....	21
New licences issued during 1959.....	8
	<hr/>
Number removed or ceased to be used during 1959.....	29
	<hr/>
Number licensed and in use at 31.12.59.....	11
	<hr/>
	18
	<hr/>

In October 1959, the Council issued its first licence for the use of just over four acres of land at Wortwell as a caravan site to accommodate travelling caravans during the summer months. Suitable conditions were imposed to ensure satisfactory sanitary facilities etc., but as its use had not begun during 1959 I have no comments to make thereon in this report.

WATER SUPPLIES.

(a) Mains Supplies.

39 samples of mains water were submitted for bacteriological examination, compared with 34 the previous year. 16 of these were taken as a routine check on the water as received by the consumer, and 15, were reported as satisfactory, the remaining one 'suspicious' - further check samples taken in the vicinity of the latter case proved satisfactory, and it was concluded that a dirty tap was the cause of the adverse report. To ensure the purity of water before use after the installation of new mains and plant necessitated the taking of the other 23 samples - the results of these were 19 satisfactory, 1 suspicious and 3 unsatisfactory. In the instance of the four unsatisfactory reports, further washing out and sterilisation of the mains was carried out and satisfactory samples subsequently obtained.

(b) Private Supplies.

31 samples were taken from private bores and wells and submitted for bacteriological examination, with results as follows:-

Source of Supply.	Number taken.	Number Satisfactory.	Number Unsatisfactory.
Shallow wells.	29	13	16
Bores.	2	2	--

A high proportion of the samples from shallow wells were taken to establish a case for mains water extensions on public health grounds in various parts of the district, as a result of which most of the houses are now, or will soon be enjoying a safe and abundant water supply. The unreliable nature - both of quality and quantity - of water supplies from shallow wells has been clearly shown by sampling and experience over the last few years, and the Council is to be congratulated that only a relatively few houses in isolated parts of the district still depend on such sources for their water supply.

One sample of well water was submitted for chemical analysis to ascertain its suitability for infant feeding, and was reported as satisfactory.

NOTE: The main aspects of the Council's water supply undertaking are contained in the Annual Report of the Engineer & Surveyor.

SCAVENGING.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

This service continued in 1959 on precisely the same lines as in the last few

years, with regular fortnightly collections in all parishes, except Harleston where it is weekly. The same three vehicles - two Dennis 10.c.yd. and the Fordson 7.c.yd. side-loaders - were used for collection, and in spite of the ages of the Dennis vehicles (12 and 13 years) gave a reasonably trouble free service. The smaller vehicle having a diesel engine is by far the most economical to run.

There were no changes in personnel engaged on this work - the same eight men employed at the end of 1958 continued to give satisfactory service. Owing to the need of more attention to be given to Weybread Tip, and to compensate for the time lost through sickness and holidays, an additional man was appointed on a temporary basis in October, and was still so employed at the end of the year. He was R.G.Hibberd and proved to be a good worker.

Time lost by all the scavenging staff through sickness etc. during the year totalled 234½ man days - 3½ more than the previous year - equivalent to one man's time for over 44 weeks in the year.

Disposal of refuse was continued by semi-controlled tipping, mainly at 5 tips in the parishes of Weybread, Hempnall, Fornsett, Ashwellthorpe and Roydon. A small proportion of refuse was disposed of in small pits on private land upon request, or by arrangement with the owners. The tip at Weybread is by far the largest and takes all the refuse collected from Harleston and other parishes in the south-eastern quarter of the district; during the dry summer of 1959 the condition of this tip was the cause of some concern by reason of fires and uncovered refuse but following special attention with a hired bulldozer and use of the extra workman its general condition since that time has given no cause for complaint. In August the tip at Gilderswood Lane, Fornsett was completely filled and it was indeed fortunate that another suitable disused sand-pit was found at Randall's Farm in this parish to take its place - I should like to express appreciation of the co-operation given by the owner, Mr.L.Humphrey, in making it available when he was first approached about it. Disposal in the Roydon area continued to be somewhat of a problem, and the small pit near Diss, used jointly with the Diss U.D.C., gave rise to complaints for the same reasons mentioned above regarding Weybread Tip. Representations to the Diss U.D.C., who tip considerably more than we do into this pit, reduced the nuisance to a minimum, but its roadside position is the main drawback and it is some consolation that its future use as a refuse tip is very limited. Any offers of suitable pits for refuse disposal in that area would be appreciated. As a consequence of the unsatisfactory condition of the Weybread Tip last year, in October the Council agreed to purchase a second-hand Ferguson tractor and shovel, etc. to be used partly for tip maintenance and partly on lime sludge digging-out at the waterworks, but this was not put into operation until after the end of the year.

All the tips were regularly inspected and treated for rats, and sprayed during the summer months to prevent nuisance from insect pests.

(b) Night-Soil Collection.

The main change in this service during the year from that of 1958 was the addition in November of 14 houses in Starston Street, to the regular weekly collection in the built-up parts of Harleston, Wortwell, both Pulhams, Alburgh, Brockdish and Thorpe Abbots. Collection arrangements in these parishes so far as days and times, use of labour and vehicles continued exactly as previously reported at the end of 1958. Special arrangements were also made in June to empty the pails weekly at 6 old peoples' bungalows at Earsham, but this work is done during the daytime in conjunction with regular cesspool emptying necessary at Council Houses in this village.

The negligible number of complaints received during the year indicate that the service given is satisfactory to the public concerned, and I feel that the staff who carry out this unpleasant task deserve some commendation for a job well done.

Disposal of closet contents on prepared straw pans at Thorpe Abbots continued as previously, and thanks to the co-operation of the farmer and efficiency of the particular workman concerned, has again proved an entirely satisfactory method.

(c) Cesspool Emptying.

A summary of the work carried out by the Cesspool Emptier - in addition to

night-soil collection - during 1959 is as follows:-

	<u>No. of loads.</u>
Depwade R.D.C. housing sites and sewage works.....	777
Private premises within the district.....	319
School Canteens and wash-ups.....	135
Premises outside the District.....	69
Lime sludge from Rushall.....	12
	<u>1,312</u>

The total number of loads is a slight reduction - 34 - on the figure for 1958.

The two men who have been regularly engaged on this work for the past 4 years, and the same vehicle, again rendered most satisfactory service. The vehicle's total mileage for the year - night soil and cesspool emptying work - was 9,796 compared with 9,821 in 1958.

As I have previously reported, the disposal of cesspool contents constitutes something of a problem particularly at certain times of the year, but thanks once again to the co-operation of local farmers and the ingenuity shown by the driver, the majority of this material was disposed of on arable land with a good measure of success.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES AND PREMISES.

(a) Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouses.

The same ten private licensed slaughterhouses were in regular use during most of the year - one other was used to kill 2 pigs only. One of the ten ceased use entirely in November. The two wholesale slaughterhouses continue to demand most attention and in fact dealt with nearly 75% of the meat killed in the district.

The total number of visits to these premises for meat inspection (including those by the private veterinary officers employed by the Council) was 1,263 - exactly the same as the previous year.

The general standard of hygienic construction at the slaughterhouses is by no means 100% - judged by that requested by the new Regulations, but it must be said that licencees and their employees do honestly endeavour to produce clean wholesome meat from the animals slaughtered under somewhat difficult conditions - any faulty methods or unsatisfactory features that have been found by your inspectors have only required informal action to be rectified.

The number of animals slaughtered showed an increase of 639, but the increase in number inspected is 1,498, so bringing the total percentage inspection figure to 98.6%. Whilst the fact is accepted that 100% meat inspection should, and must, eventually be attained throughout the Country, I think that with the present legislation and the scattered siting of the slaughterhouses in this district, the results obtained 1959 are reasonably satisfactory. Tribute must be paid to the co-operation of all butchers in this matter - it sometimes happens that there is some slight delay in inspecting meat in the morning after slaughtering has taken place at more than one slaughterhouse the previous evening, but we endeavour to meet their wishes as far as possible, and good relationships exists in every case.

The following table - produced in the form required by the Ministry - shows the number of animals slaughtered during the year, those inspected, and those found to be affected with diseases:-

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.	Total
Number killed.	1059	98	232	1534	5321	--	8244
Number Inspected (percentage)	1048 99%	95 97%	211 91%	1520 99%	5256 99%	--	8130 98.6%
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci.							
Whole carcasses.	--	--	2	1	10	--	13
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	140	39	12	17	218	--	426
Percentage of number inspected affected.	13.3	41.0	6.6	1.2	4.3	--	5.4.
Tuberculosis only.							
Whole carcasses.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	8	--	--	--	102	--	110
Percentage of number inspected affected.	0.8	--	--	--	1.9	--	1.35
Cysticerci.							
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	6	--	--	--	--	--	6
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	5	--	--	--	--	--	5
Generalised and totally condemned.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

In addition 14 goats were killed, inspected and found to be free from disease.

The proportion of animals affected by disease or conditions other than tuberculosis and cysticerci is approximately the same as found in the past 2-years, but the tuberculosis figures once again follow the downward trend of the last decade - and must be a heartening sign to veterinary officers and others engaged in the fight to eradicate this disease from food animals in this Country. It is remarkable that of 95 cows inspected not one had any tubercular lesions.

The incidence of cystercercus bovis was only just over 0.5% compared with nearly 1.0% last year. It will be observed that in one case it was not considered necessary to submit the carcass to refrigeration treatment, as only one degenerated cyst was found. The following summary indicates the parts found to be affected in the 6 bovine animals detected during the year:-

	Steers.	Heifers.	Cows.	Bulls.	Total.
Head and Tongue.	3	1	--	--	4
Heart.	1	--	--	--	1
Diaphragm.	1	--	--	--	1
	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>6</u>

The 13 whole carcasses condemned were affected by disease or condition as follows:-

1 calf	emaciated.	3 pigs	jaundice.
1 calf	immature.	4 pigs	moribund.
1 sheep.....	uraemia.	3 pigs	fevered and oedematous.

The organs affected by tuberculosis in the various types of animals concerned was as follows:-

	Cattle				
	Ex.Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Pigs.	Total.
Head and Tongue ...	4	-	-	98	102
Lungs. ...	4	-	-	2	6
Heart ...	6	-	-	2	8
Intestines ...	3	-	-	13	16
Liver ...	-	-	-	1	1
	17	-	-	116	133

The estimated total weight of meat and organs condemned at slaughterhouses as unfit for human food was 2-tons 12-cwts 2-qtrs. 13-lbs - about 3-cwts less than in 1958. It is all stained in the recommended manner and disposed of either by burying or burning on the site, or removed for processing by a reputable firm of fat recovery merchants.

Dead-weight Certification of Pigs.

Two of the slaughterhouses were in operation as certification centres for pig subsidy payments for most of the year, but that at Messrs. Whiteman & Green's premises at Harleston ceased in December - leaving only that at Mr.H.W.Rudrum's slaughterhouse, Carleton Rode (No.7084) still in use.

During the year your inspectors issued 165 certificates in respect of 1,622 pigs - for which the Council received payment from the Ministry of £44.17.6d.

Slaughter of Animals Act, - Slaughterman's Licences.

34 licences were issued to suitable persons authorising them to slaughter animals in slaughterhouses by the use of approved stunning apparatus.

(b) Inspection and Condemnation of Other Foods.

Requests from food traders, etc. to inspect food stuffs suspected of being unsound were very few in 1959, compared with the previous year. The following items were found to be unfit on inspection, and condemnation certificates issued:-

Luncheon Meat.....	6 tins	Rollod Oats.....	56-lbs.
Corned Beef.....	1 "	English Pork.....	5½-lbs.
Mixed Vegetables.....	1 "	English Beef.....	22¼-lbs.
Tomatoes.....	2 "	Halibut fillets.....	21-lbs.
Ox tongue.....	2 "	Plaice fillets.....	89-lbs.

Total weight - 2-cwts 18½-lbs.

This condemned food-stuff is disposed of by burning or burying at one of the refuse tips.

(c) Food Premises.

At the end of the year the total number of premises selling and/or handling food in the district, other than slaughterhouses and dairies, was as follows:-

General food shops.....	94	(97)
Fish shops (incl.fish & chip shops).....	4	(3)
Fish stalls.....	3	(3)
Butchers shops.....	17	(17)
Restaurants, Cafes, etc.....	7	(8)
Bakeries.....	7	(7)
Public Houses.....	74	(78)
Others - flour mills, food factories, etc....	8	(6)

NOTE: Where premises are used for more than one purpose they are included under both headings. Figures in brackets are those for 1958.

A total of 164 inspections at these premises were carried out during the year, and although it is not yet possible to report that they all comply in all respects with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, informal action is bringing about gradual but marked improvements year by year. The outbreak of dysentery which occurred in the district late in the year once again emphasized the need for the strictest attention being given to hand washing in food premises; in my opinion this involves not only the provision of suitable facilities but - more important still - the will on the part of persons so engaged, to only handle food when absolutely necessary and then only with clean hands. This can only be brought home to such persons by continual and constant propaganda both by Public Health Inspectors and the public - and I can assure the Council that it is a point given as much attention as possible by your staff.

The siting of hand washing facilities is most important in these premises, and it is regrettable that case law has not been very helpful on this point - so long as a wash-basin with hot and cold water supplies etc. is available on the premises it appears to meet the requirements of the Regulations, and unfortunately certain food firms when approached on this matter tend to be more concerned with compliance with the Regulations than ensuring that it is as convenient and easy as possible for their food handlers to wash their hands.

Only few minor cases of infringements of the Regulations were encountered at food premises, which were rectified following informal action.

(d) Dairies & Milk Distribution.

The number of registered milk distributors operating in the district during 1959 was the same as at the end of the previous year - 24 - there were no changes in the personnel concerned, but one of these moved his place of distribution out of the district. This makes a total of ten distributors and one producer-retailer selling milk from premises outside the district. There are also a small unknown number of producer-retailers which are controlled by the County Agricultural Committee - 5 of these also sell milk obtained from other sources for which they are licensed by this Council.

The district has been by order a "safe" milk area since 1955, so that all milk distributed is bottled, and either 'Tuberculin Tested' or 'Pasteurised' - the majority of which is received from large dairy plants outside the district. The 55 licenses authorising the sale of this milk were issued as follows:-

'Tuberculin Tested' Dealers licences.....	17
'Tuberculin Tested' Supplementary licences.....	10
'Pasteurised' Dealers licences.....	17
'Pasteurised' Supplementary licences.....	11
	<hr/>
	55
	<hr/>

Routine observations kept on the distributors and inspections at the 2 registered dairies have indicated that this work is carried on in a satisfactory manner.

(e) Ice-Cream.

Premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream in the district at December 31st, 1959 were as follows:-

No. of premises registered for manufacture and sale.....	1
No. of premises registered for sale (pre-packed) only.....	51
	<hr/>
	52
	<hr/>

This is an increase of 3 retailers during the year.

Nearly all the ice-cream is pre-packed and supplied by well known firms and the results of samples taken for bacteriological examination (see over) indicate that it is of a high standard of cleanliness.

26 samples were taken with the following results:-

Grade 1 (Excellent).....	25
Grade 2 (Good).....	1
Grade 3 (Unsatisfactory).....	Nil
Grade 4 (Very Unsatisfactory)...	Nil.

The shops concerned were found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition and methods of storage and handling gave no cause for criticism.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-59.

The total number of factories on the Council's register at the end of 1959 (including slaughterhouses and butchers sausage making premises) was as follows:-

No. of factories using mechanical power.....	75
No. of factories not using mechanical power.....	15

This total of 90 is an increase of 2 since the previous year.

In addition to the routine visits paid to some of these premises for other purposes, 34 inspections of factories were made during the year. Apart from the one case specially mentioned below, no serious contraventions were found and in some few cases where sanitary conveniences were found to require cleansing, only verbal informal action was necessary to have the work done.

The one case that required more serious action was a newly established factory on a disused airfield where it was found that the 2 men employed there were not provided with satisfactory sanitary accommodation. Informal requests to the occupier failed and it was found to be necessary to take legal proceedings. This resulted in a fine of £10 being imposed with 3 gns. costs and an order made for the sanitary convenience to be installed - this was eventually done.

One aspect of the Factory Acts requirements that caused rather more concern than usual last year was the failure of builders to always provide satisfactory temporary sanitary accommodation for their employers on building sites. I understand that H.M. Inspectors of Factories has endeavoured to bring this matter to the notice of builders through the Building Employers Federation, but it appears to have had little effect. Although we always find that after informal representation some kind of convenience is eventually provided - some rather crude - I feel that there is no reason why a proper portable structure provided with a chemical closet should not be erected with the usual office and store the day that work is started. Unless in the near future I find some improvement in this matter, it may be necessary to take stronger action in one particular case - if only to obtain press publicity.

No new 'Certificates of Means of Escape in Case of Fire' under Sec. 34 of the 1937 Act were issued in 1959.

The same 2 factory outworkers were notified, their premises inspected and found to be satisfactory.

AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956.

A report recently made to the Ministry giving an assessment of the position as to the provision of sanitary accommodation for workers at farms in the district at December 31st, 1959 showed that of the 487 farms known or thought to have employees, 145 had been visited and found to comply with the requirements of the Act.

Although it has not been found possible to carry out special routine visits to all farms for this purpose every opportunity is taken when visits are made to farms for other purposes (or nearby cottages) to check on this point, and generally it has been found that satisfactory conveniences are provided for workers.

Perhaps the more important aspect of this matter is the provision of temporary conveniences on land where casual gang labour is employed. Although we have no means of obtaining official information as to which farmers employ such labour, local knowledge and experience has enabled a reasonably close check to be made on this

point. During the year 18 special visits and revisits were made for this purpose - in only one case was it found that no convenience was provided for about 12 persons bean picking, but this was provided next day after a verbal request had been made to the farmer concerned. Although it is not a requirement of the Act that is administered by the Council, we also check on washing facilities, especially where fruit picking is concerned.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's powers and duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, were again very ably carried out by your rodent operator, Mr.F.Wright, under the supervision of the Inspectors. I am pleased to report that the majority of the public are very co-operative in this matter, and in no case was it found necessary to take formal action over infringements of the Act. In addition to inspections and treatments at private and business premises, all Council properties, refuse tips, sewage works, etc. are given regular attention to the entire satisfaction of the Area Pest Officer of the Ministry, who checks up from time to time.

A statistical summary of the work carried out during the year is as follows:-

	Local Authority Property.	Dwelling Houses (inc.C.Hs)	Agric. Property.	Other Premises.	Total.
No.of inspections as a result of noti- fications or survey.	181	2,112	158	81	2,532
No.of infestations:					
(a) Major.	18	10	6	2	52
(b) Minor.	27	432	1	19	479
No.of treatments carried out.	45	527	7	21	531
No.of dead rats and mice picked up	533	454	477	60	1,524

The numbers of inspections, infestation found, and treatments carried out, were slightly down on the previous year, but the number of bodies picked up considerably up (almost double).

Test baiting of the Council's various sewerage systems once again produced negative results.

Routine check inspections by the operator and Inspectors on grain stacks during threshing operations indicated that the Regulations as to fencing were complied with.

OTHER MATTERS.

The main subject I wish to mention under this heading is the making of grants towards the cost of providing W.Cs. to replace existing earth closets, etc. Carrying on your policy of making these grants to encourage owners to provide improved sanitation even where no public sewer is available, during 1959 you approved in principle another 18 applications and 22 were actually approved for payment - average grant for W.C. installed £13.10s.

Other miscellaneous visits made were - infectious diseases 34, public health nuisance complaints 79, petroleum storage licensing 92, and Harleston conveniences 65.

The number of new plans dealt with for Building Byelaw and Town Planning control was 581, as against 439 in 1958 and 349 in 1957.

IN CONCLUSION I wish to express to the Council members and staff (particularly my own staff) my thanks and appreciation for their support, co-operation and assistance given so readily during the year. I would specially mention Dr.H.Ruth Rainey, who as Chairman of the Public Health Committee, showed a keen and enthusiastic interest in all aspects of the public health service, and I am indeed sorry that she has now ceased to be a member.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. M. Wright
Senior Public Health Inspector & Building Surveyor.

DEPWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S

ANNUAL REPORT

For

1959

May 1960

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

1959 must be regarded as a rather disturbed year from my department's point of view. There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, the abnormally dry weather caused much extra work in the maintenance of the water supply. Secondly, work in the latter part of the year was greatly hindered by the departure of staff. Appendix 1 lists these changes and the Council will well be able to imagine the upheaval caused. However, the year did bring forth achievements and as a newcomer I am convinced from what I have so far seen that although it will still take some time for my department to recover from its losses, the department is soundly founded and is healthy in spirit.

At this point I feel I must express my thanks to all the members of the Council and all its staff for the friendliness, help, and support I have been so freely given in the short time I have been here. From what Mr. Chilver told me when he left, I am quite certain that he would wish to join me in this.

HOUSING.

a) Capital Works.

The Council decided to build twenty-two new bungalows to house old people. They are to be built in groups of two or four on existing housing sites in the parishes of Earsham (2) Hempnall (2) Long Stratton (4) Moulton St. Michael (4) Pulham Market (2) Redenhall with Harleston (4) and Scole (4). Unfortunately it was not possible to go beyond designing the two types of bungalow required.

It was also decided to improve some of the Council's pre-war houses by providing them with modern sanitary and other conveniences. It is intended to deal with those houses where drainage is readily available. 356 houses come into this category. It was only possible to begin the preliminary work on this.

There is an increasing pressure for the provision of garages and towards the end of the year investigations were in hand to find out what the demand was and how best to satisfy it. My opinion is that although the number of motor cars per person is lower here than in, say, the Midlands, the number is increasing rapidly and if the sites are not to be cluttered with parked vehicles damaging the curbs and verges, the demand will have to be met. I further feel that if these garages are properly designed and sited they will enhance rather than mar the estates and prove to be an asset.

b) Maintenance.

Minor improvement, maintenance, and repair work was continued by the repairs section. The prolonged fine weather and absence of severe winds and cold, were helpful. Appendix 2 outlines the work carried out by the section. It will be seen that although the number of dwellings cared for has dropped very slightly there is no real decline in the number of complaints. Indeed, it is clear that as the houses get older, the amount of work will increase.

In the last report, Mr. Chilver commented that the painting staff were only able to paint each house every 14 years. Two more painters have since been employed and it has thus been possible to reduce the cycle to 10 years. While I do not suggest any immediate change, I cannot but feel that if the Council's property (which of course includes buildings other than houses) is to be properly and economically maintained, the cycle should be reduced even more.

Also in the last report Mr. Chilver raised the matter of the provision of an additional small van or pick-up. I too am convinced of the need for such an addition and I feel that steps should be taken to get one in the near future.

My comments on the sewerage of housing sites are included under the heading "Sewerage".

WATER SUPPLY

1959 saw most of the final stages of the regional scheme and by the end of the year it could be claimed that piped water of excellent quality was available in by far the greater part of the district. Surely few districts of so rural a nature can be as well served.

Early in the year the new water-works at Rushall were brought into use and although they had perhaps rather more than their share of teething troubles they were running at the end of the year comparatively well. It is hoped and expected that the improvement will continue.

The increase in quantity and improvement in the quality has been attended by difficulties - mainly in the disposal of lime sludge. It is hoped that these difficulties will soon be overcome.

It was found that the supply to the south-eastern part of the district was in need of augmentation and to this end it was decided to pump water direct to the Harleston Tower from Rushall. After ensuring that Rushall Waterworks could be adapted to give greater output the provision of new pumps and a new main was put in hand. The work should be completed later this year.

Mention has already been made of the water shortage during the summer's drought. Apart from a few local difficulties, it was possible with strenuous efforts to maintain an unrestricted supply. For many weeks however, the struggle was undecided and it will be recalled that some local authorities did in fact lose the struggle. I feel, therefore, that I must here strike a note of warning. Water consumption everywhere is steadily going up and will go on doing so, as long as progress continues. Further piped water being cheap and convenient is perhaps the easiest commodity to waste. No one would unnecessarily want to restrict the genuine use of water but I feel very strongly that every effort should be made to persuade people to prevent waste. The dripping tap, the faulty ball valve, and the hose left running are but a few of the things to guard against. Before leaving this subject I would point out that Appendix 3 shows statistics concerning water supply. These figures, I think, heavily underline my point concerning increasing demand.

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

a) Capital Works.

The extension of the disposal works at Harleston was completed and design works for the village schemes at Alburgh and Earsham was carried on. Ministry approval of the Alburgh scheme was given late in the year but shortage of staff hindered and eventually stopped the programme. Now that my establishment has been completed again no effort is being spared to try and recover the ground lost.

Two schemes serving housing sites at Burston and Wacton were completed and schemes for sites at Fornsett St. Peter and Tibenham where prepared.

b) Maintenance.

There are now thirty-one sewage disposal plants (public health and housing) in the district. Recent samples of effluent from them confirm my view that although only two men working full-time and one part-time are employed on them, they are well maintained.

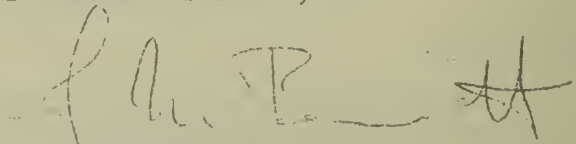
Again it is plain that the amount of work will increase as more works come into use and great care will have to be taken to ensure that the present level of maintenance is kept up

OFFICES.

Designs were prepared for the proposed offices for the Council but the impending review of local government boundaries has put the proposals into abeyance. This is unfortunate because apart from the very real need for adequate accommodation, much work was done on the project to no immediate purpose.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J.M. Berrett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(J.M. BERRETT)

Engineer & Surveyor.

NOTE:

In the Appendices figures in parenthese are those appropriate to 1958.

APPENDIX 1.

Staff Changes in 1959

ARRIVALS:

19th Jan.	G. Cole.	Clerk of Works.
20th Jul.	R. G. Flatt.	Painter.
20th Jul.	G. Sexton.	"
3rd Aug.	V. W. Kent.	Sewerage Attendant.
31st Aug.	S. S. Mallows.	Clerk of Works.

DEPARTURES:

9th Jan.	F. J. Nicholson.	Clerk of Works.
28th Jun.	W. R. Saunders.	Engineering Assistant.
4th Jul.	G. Cole.	Clerk of Works.
6th Jul.	R. Talbot.	Sewerage Attendant.
6th Dec.	D. W. Mayhew.	Deputy Engineer and Surveyor.
30th Dec.	H. Mills.	Carpenter.

NOTE: Mr. Chilver left on the 3rd Jan. 1960.

(There were no changes in the Technical Staff in 1958).

APPENDIX 2.

Summary of Work done by Repairs Section in 1959.

No. of dwellings under repair at 31st. Dec. 1959	1489	(1501)
Complaints received	2589	(2897)
Jobbing Repairs done	2759	(2565)
Electrical complaints received and dealt with ...	194	
Dwellings Painted Externally	99	(108)
Dwellings partially re-decorated internally on changes of tenancy	9	(11)
Dwellings inspected on changes of tenancy	56	(70)
Vehicle Mileages	JXP 339 ... 11,897 VNG 523 ... 9,468 NNG 434 ... 12,531	
	Total	<u>33,896</u> (31,225)

NOTE:

The reasons for the decline in the number of houses painted are as follows:-

- 1) Weather unsuitable for painting early in the year forced the painting gang on to other work which had to be completed before resuming painting.
- 2) 16 Swedish Timber houses were painted. These involve twice as much work as other houses.
- 3) The new painters did not begin work until July.
- 4) The figures given do not include work at Harleston which was started in December. This will be included next year.

APPENDIX 3.

Water Supply.

Average daily quantity of water supplied in thousands of gallons per day.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
From Rushall	250	264	276	280	314	375	391	339	383	377	345	350
Diss	75	84	89	88	105	132	135	108	123	119	102	89
Total	325	348	365	368	419	509	526	447	506	496	447	439

Quantity Supplied in 1959 from Rushall	120,990,000	(89,668,000)
from Diss	37,777,000	(26,956,000)
Total	158,767,000	(116,624,000)

Increase in 1959 42,143,000 (3,721,000)

Estimated Population in Area of Supply	18,033	(18,274)
Estimated Population Supplied in 1959	15,318	(14,882)
Percentage of Population served	84.7 %	(81.4%)
Average Daily Consumption per person	28.2 gpd	(21.5)
Length of Main in Service	185 Miles	(168)
Total Storage	580,000 gallons	(same)
Consumers Meters	995	(891)
Dwellings Served	5516	(5180)
Applications for Supplies	114	
Applications for Building Water	103	
New Tappings Made	81	(69)
Mains Fractures repaired	22	(18)
Service Pipes repaired	9	(22)

WATER MAINS LAID IN 1959

Parish	Size of Main	Length of Main	Dwellings Supplied	Meters Supplied
Alburgh (Link Main)	4" 3"	2.48 0.32	17	10
Aslacton (Plantation Rd)	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " 1"	0.29 0.02	4	
Bressingham (Wilney Green)	2"	0.92	9	6
Bunwell/Carleton Rode (Wymondham Rd. Area)	4"	1.48	40	9
Dickleburgh (Semere Green)	4"	0.41	11	3
Hapton (Norwich Road)	1"	0.26	2	1
Pulham Market (Mill Road) (Station Road)	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " 4"	0.20 0.57	2 9	2 4
Rushall (Link Main)	4" 3"	3.14 0.22	54	18
Scole (Upper Billingham)	4" 3"	2.13 0.05	41	7
Shimpling (Link Main)	5" 3"	1.92 0.08	32	3
Starston (Hall) (Highfields)	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " 1" $\frac{3}{4}$ "	0.35 0.08 0.09	2 2	1 1
Tivetshall (Link Main)	4" 4" 3"	1.24 0.38 0.56	31	11
		17.19 Miles	256	76

FINANCIAL STATISTICS
(as at 31. 3. 60)

(i)	Total Capital Expenditure	£618,300
(ii)	Estimated Revenue Expenditure (inclusive of running costs, loan charges etc.,)	£ 44,600
(iii)	Estimated Revenue	£ 20,200

